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Question Period Transcript

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PÉRIODE DE QUESTIONS - SOUS-TITRAGE

2022-02-16

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The Speaker: Oral questions. The honourable leader of the opposition.

Candice Bergen (CPC): It's clear that the prime minister has a political **emergency** on his hands. The borders at Coutts, surrey, Emerson are cleared. There are no blockades. Trucks are still in downtown ottawa and need to move. But in light of the changing landscape with the prime minister tell us where the serious threat is to Canadians phorid logical purposes that is the threshold that needs to be met for the **emergencies** act.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, the implication of the **emergencies** act is not something to be done lightly and not to be done at a first or second resort but it was necessary to be done to give local law enforcement across the country the tools to handle these illegal blockades, to be able to ensure restoration of order and to to make sure that Canadians whether they're losing shifts or seeing supplies delayed on the way to the borders be able to get back to their daily lives. This is a decision we took and of course parliament is going to have the opportunity to debate it.

The Speaker: The honourable leader of the opposition.

Candice Bergen (CPC): The law is clear, any limitations to Canadians' fundamental freedoms must be justified and meet a legal criteria. Experts across the country said these requirements have not been met? The prime minister hasn't given a clear reason why he's invoking the **emergencies** act. Things are de-escalating. So why is the prime minister using this hammer on Canadians? Isn't it true he's doing it just to save his only political skin.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker over the past few weeks Canadians have been suffering whether it's because of **border crossings**, whether it's because of illegal blockades in their neighbourhood, these are something that requires extra tools that we have put in law enforcement's hands. Of course law enforcement and local law enforcement and jurisdictions can use these tools or not as they're available. But the threshold was met for the **emergencies** act and now across the country the police of jurisdiction have the tools necessary to keep people safe. [Applause]

The Speaker: The honourable leader of the opposition.

Candice Bergen (CPC): The prime minister calls people racist and misogynist? He spent the last month wedding, dividing, stigmatizing and traumatizing Canadians. I understand the prime minister admires dictatorships but this is **Canada** not a dictatorship. Pouring gasoline on embers. Isn't it true that the prime minister is doing this for one reason and one reason alone, to save his own political career.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): The conservatives can't have it both ways. They spent weeks complaining that we weren't doing enough to restore order in this country. Now when we move forward to give people the tools they need --

The Speaker: I have to interrupt the right honourable prime minister. You know, I've been getting e-mails from people who are watching us at home and they're ashamed of their parliament because of the shouting that is going on. One person brought something up, they said, well, all the shouting happens at the beginning. Why not start with the end questions? If this continues

I'm going to the last question, turn my list upside down and we'll start at the end. The honourable prime minister please continue.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, conservatives can't have it both way, they spent the first few weeks of this challenge and illegal blockade saying that the government needed to act and take responsibility and then when we finally move forward in a responsible way, when the time was right to bring in the **emergencies** act they're now complaining that we've done too much. At the same time and throughout, Mr. Speaker, they continue to stand with and support and cheer on these illegal blockades. Mr. Speaker, that are the ones playing poodle.

The Speaker: The honourable leader of the opposition.

Candice Bergen (CPC): For a man who wore black face, took a terrorist a trip to India. Gave khadar \$10 million we're not going to stop talking to constituents because the prime minister disagrees. Mr. Speaker, the prime minister said to follow the science when it comes to mandates but that's not what **Canada's** top doctors are saying. It's time to end the mandates and the restrictions. The prime minister is ignoring the science. There's a mental health crisis in this cub and coned lockdowns and mandates keeping Canadians separated are making it worse. So will the prime minister commit to Canadians he'll follow the science?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, the invocation of the **emergencies** act is something extremely serious and we have taken extremely seriously. I have followed specific steps that were taken and this continue in the house to follow consultation with the premiers. It's a -- it gives us the tools in a proportionate and responsible way to the officers of jurisdiction to be able to end these blockades. This will be a moment that will be studied in the history books and what the people will see is that the conservatives never stop playing personal partisan politics. [Applause]

The Speaker: Let's try the honourable member for Kitchener Centre I believe he has a question today.

Mike Morrice (GP): Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt the **pandemic** has had a devastating impact on our mental health putting further strain on a system that already had longstanding gaps. In Waterloo-Wellington, 15 children and youth are waiting to be seen by child psychiatrists at CMHA before the **pandemic**. Now they have 190 on the waiting list. The fact is that mental health is hell. Called for by the Canadian alliance on mental health and others will the prime minister prioritize funding and legislation to ensure that every Canadian has actually access to inclusive and accessible mental health?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): I can't agree enough with the member from Kitchener Centre. Mental health is health. We must ensure it's a full and equal part of our universal health care system. Which is why we're committing to establishing the **Canada** mental health transfer to expand the delivery of high quality, free mental health services. We want to encourage all Canadians who need support to check out wellnesstogether.ca for resources and download the pocket well app available 24/7 to access a range of resources including free and confidential virtual sessions with social workers, psychologists and professionals.

The Speaker: The honourable leader of the opposition.

Candice Bergen (CPC): The numbers speak for themselves, alcohol and substance abuse, suicide, domestic violence and child abuse have all increased over the last two years. These are not statistics, these are real Canadians dealing with real heartache. An unnecessary mandates and restrictions are hurting us all. Science has saved lives and the science is clear, we can start to open up. Will the prime minister trust the numbers, trust the experts and tell us when he'll end the mandates and the restrictions?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): We know how difficult these past two years have been for Canadians with this **pandemic**. But we also have demonstrated that throughout it, Canadians have each other's backs just like this government have had Canadians' backs with **vaccines**, rapid tests and supports for small businesses, workers and families. We will continue to have people's backs and follow the science. That's why we were pleased to announce loosening restrictions on borders as travel is more available to Canadians. We will continue to follow the science every step of the way to keep Canadians safe.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Beloeil--Chambly.

Yves-François Blanchet (BQ) [Voice of Interpreter]: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In hindsight and having read documents about the **emergencies** act we get the feeling more and more that this is a coverup, an attempt to cover up the government and the

prime minister's failings. The national assembly is. Against and the government of **Quebec** is against and the Bloc Québécois is against and **Quebec** conservatives are against the **emergencies** act. Why? Why doesn't the prime minister simply apply this law in the provinces that want it?

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: For two weeks the bloc leader was calling on the government and urging us to take firm action to crack down on the illegal blockades. So we took the step of invoking the **emergencies** act in a proportionate and responsible way fully consistent with the charter and this will enable jurisdictions that don't need it to simply not use it. Now he's finding something else to criticize. That's his job as leader of an opposition party but my job is to protect Canadians.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Beloeil--Chambly.

Yves-François Blanchet (BQ) [Voice of Interpreter]: His job is to serve Canadians, Mr. Speaker. I see not supposed to do a disservice to Quebecers in order to serve Canadians. The current prime minister of **Canada** should be more conscious than anywhere else, more aware of the sensitivities in **Québec** to resorting to the war measures act in its new form.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, the government of **Canada** has always been there for Canadians in need, including Quebecers when there were challenges around long-term care, the government of **Canada** sent in supports through the **Canadian armed forces**, we have now provided assistance to police force PC across the country. They will be able to use the tools necessary or not use them in these difficult times. We are fully respectful of Quebecers and Canadians but we will give law and order the resources they need to protect the rights and freedoms of all Canadians. Mr. Speaker. [End of Interpretation]

The Speaker: The honourable member for Burnaby South.

Jagmeet Singh (NDP): Mr. Speaker, we're in a national crisis because all levels of government have failed to acknowledge the seriousness of this crisis. On top of that we receive a glaring difference in the treatment of indigenous and racialized **protesters** as opposed to the way that the convoy is treated. Canadians are deeply concerned about that. What will the prime minister going to do to address the serious concerns that people have that there is a disproportionate treatment of racialized and indigenous people as compared to the convoy and what we can do to fix that.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, as a government for years now we recognize systemic racism and pledged to work towards reducing it. The reality that racialized Canadians, indigenous Canadians face worse outcomes and treatment from our justice system from a police system is one of those things that we have pledged to counter. We work closely with black and indigenous communities to make sure that we are producing the barriers and ensuring equity treatment particularly in moments of crisis like this one.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Burnaby South.

Jagmeet Singh (NDP) [Voice of Interpreter]: We're in a national crisis and it needs to be resolved but it's also important to make sure that laws -- that the **emergencies** act is not applied in areas where it's unneeded. Will the prime minister promise not to apply the **emergencies** act where it's not needed?

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: The **emergencies** act was invoked in a reasonable fashion. In a proportionate way and in a way that it can localized or targeted to where it's needed. It gives local police more tools if they need them and if they don't need them they don't have to use them, Mr. Speaker. That's how our solution is reasonable, it's a reasonable implementation of the war measures -- rather the **emergencies** act.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Bellechasse--Les Échemins--Lévis

Dominique Vien (CPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, last Friday the prime minister said that the Ottawa police had all resources they needed to end the standoff. Suddenly on Monday he invokes the **emergencies** act. What happened between the 11th and 14th of February to justify these decisions. And on what legal basis is he now trying to deflect attention from his lack of leadership?

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, the **emergencies** act is not the first thing that we should resort to or even the second thing. The idea is to ensure the necessary resources are available to law enforcement so they can do their job. We've been there from the very beginning providing more resources to the Ottawa police and other police forces all around the country and on Monday we decided to invoke the **emergencies** act in order to give them more tools.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Bellechasse--Les Échemins--Lévis

Dominique Vien (CPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, premier Legault has the situation under control in **Québec** and other provinces don't want the **emergencies** measures to apply in their jurisdiction either. This looks like a partisan game. Can the prime minister explain why the whole country have to suffer the consequences of the local situation in Ottawa.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, we've seen blockages at borders across the country. This is an **emergency** that required the invocation of the **emergencies** act. So we've given the local police tools that they may use but they don't have to use them first minister they don't need them. That's how the **emergencies** act works and it's fully compliant with the charter of rights and freedoms wherever it applies. [End of Interpretation]

The Speaker: The honourable member for Haldimand--Norfolk

Leslyn Lewis (CPC): The **emergencies** act is a declaration of a state of national **emergency**. It's a blunt force tool that should be used under the most serious circumstances when legal powers have been exhausted. Canadians do not believe of that this prime minister has exhausted all efforts? The **emergency** measures act gives extraordinary powers to the government. The prime minister would have received judicial advice from judicial officers when will the prime minister make this available to the public?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Once again the conservative party wants it both ways. They spent weeks complaining that the federal government wasn't acting while encouraging the illegal barricades. Now national federal government has put in the hands of local police officers justified proportional measured tools that will absolutely conform with the charter of rights and freedoms they are now complaining that we have acted. We will continue to do what is necessary to keep Canadians and their communities and our economy safe.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Haldimand--Norfolk

Leslyn Lewis (CPC): Canadians want real answers. The prime minister's own words created fear? What are we going to do with people. These people respect taking it up space. These are the words of a failed leader who robbed Canadians of hope and unity. When will this prime minister stop Dowling down on his famed leadership and admit it is his divisive words and mandates that led to so much turmoil inspecting the country.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, unlike the member opposite and what she believes the **vaccine** mandates that we you forward in this country saved lives. The **vaccine** mandates for travellers for federal public servants contributed to one of the highest vaccination rates in the world by Canadians. That has kept people safer, it has allowed our economy to come roaring back and has allowed us to get through this challenging **pandemic** better than most. Unfortunately conservatives are now supporting illegal blockades that are harming our economy.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Calgary Nose Hill.

Michelle Rempel Garner (CPC): Earlier in question period the prime minister said that the **emergencies** act should not be the first or second thing that should be used to resolve a crisis situation. What were these first and second things that the prime minister did and how does the failure of those actions provide legal justification for the invocation of the **emergencies** act?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, when we began to see illegal blockades in place we made sure that the **RCMP** was there to offer resources to local police of jurisdiction to work with the OPP to ensure that the sponsor planning was there for the police of local jurisdiction to take action. As time went on and these pulling blockades became more and more dug in we

saw that there was a need for more and more tools until it got to the point where Canadians' livelihoods, Canadians well-being, the residents of Ottawa being severely impacted, threats of violence at **border crossings** across the country.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Calgary Nose Hill.

Michelle Rempel Garner (CPC): The problem with that argument is that the illegal blockades were prior to the **emergencies** act without federal help. They were not used to settle the rail blockades of 2020. Caledonia, September 11th, the **COVID-19 pandemic** or any other dispute in Canadian history. The prime minister has not provided legal justification for the use of the **emergencies** act. A historic unfettered power grab. He needs to calmly tell Canadians --

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, the invocation of the **emergencies** act is not something to be done lately. On that we absolutely agree, that is why not only did we lay out the rationale and explain to Canadians why we're doing it, how we're doing, not only why we made sure that the new powers are circumspect, proportional and to be used only where they are needed but we are also about to have days' of debate in the house on exactly these questions so that parliamentarians and all Canadians are able to see that this was necessary.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Beloeil--Chambly.

Yves-François Blanchet (BQ) [Voice of Interpreter]: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the prime minister to read his own order in council before reading his answers in the house. It does not say that the provinces can opt in or out. It says that the federal government has chosen -- can choose to intervene or not. Secondly I would ask the NDP to think seriously given the history of a party that opposed courageously opposed the application of the war measures act back in the '70s. This is shameful to use -- to compare. It's shameful to compare the army being sent in to help with the **pandemic** to this situation.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, the **pandemic** has been difficult for everyone in **Canada**. Too many lives were lost. We saw things that we used to take for granted being limited. We had unprecedented challenges with mental health in our communities. But every step of the way Canadians were there for one another. They had each other's backs whether it was frontline workers in **Québec** or **emergency** sponsored in bc, people stood up for their neighbours. We saw the best in Canadians. It brought the best out in them but now we're seeing illegal blockades across the country, we have to support Canadians.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Beloeil--Chambly.

Yves-François Blanchet (BQ) [Voice of Interpreter]: I'm not convinced, Mr. Speaker, that the prime minister realizes what this situation has been like for real people. Does he realize that health is a matter of **Québec** and provincial jurisdiction? Does he realize that he shouldn't interfere? Does he realize that he has fallen flat on his face? Does he realize that resources that were used to deal with the health problems are now marshalled for a security problem in a most inappropriate way?

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: We have transferred billions of the dollars to the provinces and **Québec** to help them get through -- all adequately get through the **pandemic**. Billions of dollars, we spent 80% of the funding to deal with the **pandemic**. 80% of it came from the federal government and tens of billions of dollars. I understand that the bloc is absolutely terrified that we've been so present to help but we will be there as long as necessary to help out. [End of Interpretation]

The Speaker: The honourable member for Thornhill

Melissa Lantsman (CPC): Mr. Speaker, hopeful vision is a powerful choice for change. If the Canadians are to trust their government, Canadians need to trust their government. Those were words in 2015. Science desires and the French. The same prime minister six years later as he fans the flames of an unjustified national **emergency**. Mr. Speaker, when did the prime minister lose his way, when did it happen?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, the conservative party members can stand with people who wave swastikas. They can stand with people who wave the confederate flag, we choose to stand with Canadians who deserve to get their jobs and their lives back. These illegal **protests** need to stop. And they will, Mr. Speaker.

[Yelling]

The Speaker: I remind the honourable members, including the right honourable prime minister to use words that are not inflammatory in the house. As for both sides. That's for both sides. The honourable member for Thornhill.

[Yelling]

Melissa Lantsman (CPC): Unbecoming as a prime minister. It's been 48 hours since the government went from doing nothing to a national **emergency**. 48 hours into using the measures. 48 hours without providing parliament with a justification. My question is simple, when will the prime minister admit he's lost control of the situation, that they lost control of his country, his caucus and his leadership.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): On the question of support for these blockades. The conservatives need to make a choice, are they for the block or for the communities, economy and regular Canadians. The member from Provencher pointed out that the illegal blockades he's never seen such a patriotic display in **Canada**. There's nothing patriotic about hurting fellow Canadians. The member from Grande Prairie-McKenzie claims that the economy is not held and hostage all the while hundreds of millions of dollars were lost in trade due to blockades. And the member from Sarnia Lampton doesn't believe her constituents need guaranteed access to the Blue Water bridge. We stand with Canadians.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Regina--Qu'Appelle.

Andrew Scheer (CPC): Mr. Speaker, in 2020 when anti-energy **protesters** blocked vital transportation, ships were backed up in ports and trains were stopped. The prime minister didn't stop them. He sent a government delegation to meet with them. Now that the **protests** are about something he disagrees with he uses inflammatory language and makes a massive power grab. We know that the pm finds democracy inconvenient and he admires China's dictatorship? Will he admit this is a move to crack down on dissents.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): I would remind the member to be careful in his line of questioning before people look into what he and the conservative party members said --

[Yelling]

The Speaker: I remind the honourable member that shouting names at each other is not the way that this works. No, no, no, before you start clapping start to looking at your own benches. The right honourable prime minister please continue.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, people across the country have noted the difference between the words and the rhetoric of the conservative party of **Canada** in regard to indigenous **protest** and inspect regard to black lives matter **protest** and in regards to marginalized people asking for their further rights and in the comparison to illegal blockades hurting regular Canadians and talked about the potential overthrow of a duly elected government. That is not responsible. Elect government. That that is not responsible.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Regina--Qu'Appelle.

Andrew Scheer (CPC): The conservatives denounced the blockade in 2020 and we denounced the blockades this time? The only thing that changed is the prime minister's, a. When he agreed with the anti-energy **protesters** he let them continue for weeks within offered a settlement. This time he grants himself unprecedented powers to attack those who disagreed with. People do not want to live in the country where the prime minister gets to decide which **protests** are legitimate. Once again isn't this all just about cracking down on dissent.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): As a government we have always stood up for a right to peaceful provide tests -- **protests** and stood up to the freedom of assembly and expression. These illegal blockades are hurting Canadians. Are hurting therapy livelihoods and are hurting the well-being and endangering the well-being of people and communities across this country. The former leader of the conservative party points out that they have stood against the blockades, unfortunately many members of his party have stood with these illegal blockades and encouraged them to continue block aiding their fellow citizens.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Burnaby South.

Jagmeet Singh (NDP): We're in the midst of a national crisis and frustrated Canadians. The Canadians that got vaccinated and followed the public health guidelines are looking at a rigged system where billionaires and millionaires make out like bandits, increase their wealth and working families and working class families are struggling to get by. What is the prime minister going to do to respond to the frustration of Canadians who can't put a roof over their head and struggling to put food on the table. What is he doing to respond to that frustration?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Every step of the crisis from the beginning of the **pandemic** we've had Canadian's backs with unprecedented support for our health system so people can get tests and **vaccines** and health support. So people get wage and rent subsidies to keep small businesses going and to keep people in their jobs. Direct support for seniors, youth and working families and mothers. These are things that we moved forward on to have Canadians' backs and we will continue to invest in housing, in immigration measures and in the measures that are going to be supporting Canadians into the future.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Burnaby South.

Jagmeet Singh (NDP) [Voice of Interpreter]: This national crisis has exposed people's frustration. People who are vaccinated are following the public health measures and they're frustrated. Billionaires are making record profits while every day people have trouble making ends meet. Is the prime minister ready to respond to people's frustration with measures that actually meet their needs to solve the problems with the increasing cost of living. Finding affordable housing?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, my last answer I spoke a bit of what we've done since the beginning of the **pandemic** but we need to do more to move forward. I would emphasize, however that, there are families throughout the country like in **Alberta**, like in **Manitoba** and elsewhere families who are saving hundreds of dollars a month due to more affordable day care spaces. We've had a direct impact on people's families through affordable day care. We hope that **Ontario** will sign on to be part of that solution as well. [End of Interpretation]

The Speaker: The honourable member for Guelph

Lloyd Longfield (LPC): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian environmental protection act was introduced in the senate last week for their study and comment and the member of the house of commons standing committee for environment **sustainable development** I look forward to reviewing this legislation when it comes to place. Could the prime minister comment on the importance of this legislation in helping us to address the climate crisis as well as recovering clean Lakes, rivers and streams in providing ongoing protection for our environment.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): I thank the member from Guelph for his important question and tireless advocacy on behalf of the environment. This bill is a big step toward strengthening Canadians' health and our Lakes, lands and forests from toxic pollutants. This legislation can help us all become better stewards of our environment making **Canada** a better place for us and the generations that follow. I encourage all parliamentarians to work together to pass this bill as soon as.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Red Deer--Lacombe.

Blaine Calkins (CPC): Two-thirds of Canadians want to see C restrictions and mandates lifted. We have a high vaccination rate but Canadians are still living under restrictions that many other countries have lifted. Canadians want a plan to end restrictions and they're disappointed that the ndp and the liberals have blocked our conservative motion asking for one. Mr. Speaker, 32% of the vote is good enough for the liberals to form government. Why isn't 90% good enough to lift mandates?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): For two years Canadians have been there for each other and we followed the science and made sure that people get vaccinated and people have access to rapid tests. We'll be ensuring we're doing what is necessary both to keep people safe from **COVID** and to get back to the things we love as quickly as possible. I was pleased to see this week the lifting of a number of restrictions around international travel. We're going to continue to monitor carefully and ensure that we follow the science as we keep Canadians safe.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Carleton Trail--Eagle Creek.

Kelly Block (CPC): Thank you, media. The only thing this -- Mr. Speaker. The only thing that this prime minister has done is

politicized this **pandemic** and divided Canadians at a time when we should be working together and supporting one another. His lack of leadership divided, stigmatized and traumatized Canadians? Provincial premiers are leading the way giving hope, confidence and rebuilding trust in leadership. When will this prime minister follow their lead?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, the 90% vaccination rate in Canadian shows that Canadians have never been more united. The stories we throughout the **pandemic** of people there for their neighbours, people there to support frontline workers. People there to support their communities demonstrates ability to which Canadians have stepped up to be there for each other. There are people harassing and intimidating frontline workers, yes, there are people involved in illegal blockades but the vast majority of Canadians continue to stand alongside each other and support each other, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Lakeland.

Shannon Stubbs (CPC): Mr. Speaker, two-thirds of Canadians are united because they want an end to mandates and lockdown. The prime minister said they're racist, misogynists, a fringe, who quote "take up space" and shouldn't be tolerated. Security experts say the **emergencies** act is an "unprecedented excessive overreach." And half the provinces oppose it. But this PM's pattern is failure and topped down division. He's gone from name-calling to nukes. Is this not about the prime minister taking a sledge hammer to Canadians he thinks are unacceptable.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): I believe the member opposite misspoke, it's 100% of Canadians who are tired of it this **COVID pandemic** who are tired of having to be restricted, tired of having to be impacted by this **pandemic** around the country and around the globe, we all want to get through. The way to get through it is by following science. By keeping each other safe and by being there for each other. It isn't to engage in illegal blockades that are harming their fellow Canadians.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Chicoutimi--Le Fjord

Richard Martel (CPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: -- Yesterday the government of **Quebec** gave a detailed plan of re-opening with clear objectives. How is it that the federal government can't do the same thing? The member criticized his own party. Recommended raising restrictions. The prime minister is using the **pandemic** to save his job? When is he going to withdraw all of the country's public health measures?

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, the member full well knows that the public health measures are applied for the most part by the provinces. At the border the federal government is responsible for them and I'm pleased to it be able to highlight that for a few days now we've announced a change in our posture at the border. We're going to make it easier for vaccinated Canadians to travel abroad. That's good for Canadians. We'll continue to follow the science to raise restrictions because that's what Canadians want and it's what we all need.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Beloeil--Chambly.

Yves-François Blanchet (BQ) [Voice of Interpreter]: The prime minister was referring to investments made by the prime minister during the **pandemic** and remind him that these were investments funded through credit. It's Canadian and Quebecers money. That's a debt left behind for Canadians and Quebecers. Without imposing conditions before giving health transfers, he should have given more money regardless. He shamelessly reminds everyone of the darkest events in the country's history. Is he aware that we don't need him to go to the bank and we don't need the **emergencies** act to deal with the crisis in **Québec**?

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, Canadians from one end of this country to the other have gone through two extremely difficult years, with strategic losses. With personal and collective sacrifices and every step of the way the federal government was there for people. Free vaccination. Investments to help small businesses and big businesses and workers and families and seniors. Every step of the way the federal government has been there including for Quebecers. That's what's disappointing the Bloc Québécois.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Beloeil--Chambly.

Yves-François Blanchet (BQ) [Voice of Interpreter]: The prime minister seems to be enunciating the cause of his own failure.

What is the many justification for invoke being the **emergencies** act. There should be a certain amount of consensus within the house for invoking such an act. The opposition and the Bloc Quebecois is against it. I invite the NDP to think carefully about this subject. Does he recognize that there were other means to act and that it was illegal legitimate to anytime pose this on to **Québec**?

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: It's important for everyone to know that the **emergencies** act is structured in a very clear way. We are following it to the letter. We are carefully implementing it. From the beginning we recognized that we had to target those measures, that citizens should always enjoy the protection of the charter of rights and freedoms and that the act would only be used when it was needed by local authorities. [End of Interpretation]

The Speaker: The honourable member for Sturgeon River--Parkland

Dane Lloyd (CPC): I've never seen such shameful and dishonourable remarks from this prime minister. My grandfather flew over 30 missions over Nazi Germany. ----- There are members of this conservative caucus who are the descendants of the victims of the holocaust. For the prime minister to accuse any colleague in this house of standing with a swastika is shameful. I'm giving the prime minister an opportunity. I'm calling on him to apologize for this shameful remark.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, Canadians deserve their freedom back. Mr. Speaker, these illegal blockades this have continued to interfere with people's livelihood and interfere with people's daily lives -- [Yelling]

The Speaker: I have to interrupt the honourable prime minister and ask everyone to calm down to hear the answer. The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, the measures put forward in this **emergencies** act are proportional, are responsible and quite are completely folded within the charter of rights and freedoms. The steps that we are taking are important and measured to restore order and freedom to Canadians in this country and that's what we are doing.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Sturgeon River--Parkland

Dane Lloyd (CPC): The lack of apology for that prime minister speaks volumes. I have given the prime minister an opportunity to retract a shameful remark? Where he would calls any honourable member of this house to stand with a swastika. We have colleagues who are the descendants of the victims of the holocaust. Will he apologize to all members of this house.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, even as the members of the conservative party are calling for us to take more action over the past two weeks, as they continued to stand with and encourage these illegal blockades. Mr. Speaker, Canadians are watching carefully and see exactly where the conservative politicians who stood with those blockades are standing. We will stand on the side of Canadians who deserve their lives back and deserve their livelihoods back.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Sturgeon River--Parkland

Dane Lloyd (CPC): My apologies. I didn't write these out but the fact is I don't know how any member of the government caucus can stand by this prime minister when he accuses honourable members of this house of stand with a swastika. I'm calling on all members of the liberal caucus to denounce the prime minister. I've given him two chances to apologize. Apologize.

The Speaker: Once again, I want to remind the honourable members, this is getting emotional, place your questions through the speaker. Not to each other. The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These illegal blockades have been going on in Ottawa for 20 days now. People have been interrupted in their daily lives. Have been made to feel fearful and miss shirts. At work across southern **Ontario**. These are things that cannot be stood for which is why we're moving forward with a responsible set of measures to allow the local police jurisdiction to do their jobs. We continue to defend freedom of expression, people of assembly, as long as it's peaceful and legal, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Lac-Saint-Louis

Francis Scarpaleggia (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, the tourism sector and travel very, been hard hit by the **pandemic**. Businesses and organization PC in those sectors -- organizations in those sectors are very excited and looking forward to more vaccinated people to trap. Travel. Can the prime minister tell us more about lightning public health measures at airports?

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, thank the member for all the work that he's done in his riding of Lac-Saint-Louis. Measures for travellers are evolving as the **pandemic** changes. Based on public health recommendations, as of February 28 we're going to raise restrictions for flights to international destinations. That will help to support local tourism and create good jobs and growth for the economy.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Mégantic--L'Érable

Luc Berthold (CPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, today the prime minister clearly demonstrated that he's only interested in one thing. Getting out of the crisis he himself has created. His lack of leadership is the only thing to blame for his crisis. He talked about the history books earlier. He'll be thinking about history because he wile described ABC news the prime minister that showed the least amount of leadership. He's hardly answered any of the opposition's questions about real reasons for invoking the **emergency** measures act. What we see is that the prime minister is in a crisis and his party and caucus. Why is he putting himself before the nation?

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Since the beginning of the blockades we've been there to support the police forces in order to solve the illegal blockade. As we saw that we needed additional tools which we did responsibly and carefully Monday night being we're offering help where it's necessary and that's what Canadians expect while the conservatives encourage these illegal blockades we are acting to help local police to end them.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Mégantic--L'Érable

Luc Berthold (CPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, the prime minister can insult all Canadians, that's not leadership. **Canada** has never been more divided than it is today. This is what happens when a prime minister chooses to play the great politician instead of acting like a leader. He doesn't hear the discontent in our ridings. In hills party, in his caucus. -- In his party, in his caucus. He doesn't hear the entire country. That he the reality. Can he tell us why this prime minister is always slow to do the right thing but is ready to snap to it when his reputation is on the line.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: Mr. Speaker, I understand and we have heard just how tired people are of this **pandemic**. They're tired of the measures that they need to take to protect each other. We want to get through it. But I will remind the member for the conservative party that the way to end the **pandemic** is not through illegal **protests** and following the science and by acting responsibly and progressively changing public health measures and getting vaccinated. That's what Canadians have done. The unity of the country when it comes to vaccination shows how we will always be there for each other.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The honourable member for Mégantic--L'Érable

Luc Berthold (CPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: When this prime minister had to act for the head of state he played politics, called an election in the middle of a **pandemic** who stigmatized those who didn't think like him. He imposed **vaccines** on **truckers** and demonized and ridiculed some of his citizens instead of listening to what they had to say. He hid instead of facing the music. That's enough. When will the prime minister apologize to Canadians for politicizing a public health crisis.

The Speaker [Voice of Interpreter]: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC) [Voice of Interpreter]: On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, during the last election which the conservative party did not win Canadians were consulted on the issue of **vaccine** mandates and public health man dates. Canadians voted mostly for members of parliament who supported mandatory vaccination. Public sector workers. Especially for travel in airplanes and on the train. It's Canadians who chose. We've seen with a rate of vaccination of 90% that Canadians are united. They will continue to be there for each other. [End of Interpretation]

The Speaker: The honourable member for Scarnorough--Agincourt.

Jean Yip (LPC): Mr. Speaker, immigrants coast to coast to coast have contributed to this country and my riding of Scarborough--Agincourt. Last year we exceeded our goal of welcoming over 401,000 immigrants that will make **Canada** their home. This was a historical record to shape **Canada's** growth. Can you prime minister update this house on our government's plan to welcome more newcomers in the coming year.

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): Mr. Speaker, immigration is and has always been essential to **Canada's** success. This prime minister has highlighted the contributions of newcomers to the well-being of our community and across all sectors of the economy. It's why we tabled our most ambitious immigration plan yet. This plan will welcome more newcomers into the coming year and will continue to help key sectors of our economy. It will help staff almost a million unfilled positions across all sectors listen help filling in for the 5 million Canadians set to retire by 2030.

The Speaker: The honourable member for Burnaby South.

Jagmeet Singh (NDP): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many Canadians are raising huge concerns that the **emergencies** act should not apply to legal **protests**. We thought that there have been many counter **protesters** standing up to the convoy and we've seen some of those arrested by police instead of the actual convoy. The Canadians are raising the question, what assurances will be the prime minister provide so that legal **protests** are not impacted by the invocation of the **emergencies** act?

The Speaker: The right honourable prime minister.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau (LPC): An excellent question and one that we are also preoccupied with which is why in the measures set forward we've been very clear to indicate that illegal **protest**, illegal barricades and blockages are the ones that we are giving extra tools for the police to respond to. We will always stand and for Canadians' charter right and freedom of peaceful assembly and expression. That is extremely important. But we know that it is the police of jurisdiction who need to do their jobs and not Canadians taking things into their own hands to end these illegal **protests**. That's what we're ensuring with this measure.

The Speaker: That's all our time we have for question period today.

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